

Summary of the VINCE-Workshop, held in Munich on the 4th of July, 2019

Thomas Eckert

The goal of the workshop was to introduce and discuss the ideas and tools of the VINCE project with persons who are responsible for or affected from validation of competences in Munich, especially at the LMU. The discussion was open to LMU-students. Invited persons were Robin Eisenreich from the LMU international office, Clara Epping from the LMU guidance service, Karin Berner from the Museum five continents in Munich and Rebecca Kilian-Mason from the 'Flüchtlingsrat' (refugees council). Representatives from the VINCE-Project were Thomas Eckert and Randolph Preisinger-Kleine. The workshop was held in German.

The first presentation was presented by Thomas Eckert and Randolph Preisinger-Kleine. In this presentation they described the idea of validation and the need for it as stated in the Lisbon Recognition Convention of the UNESCO from 2006. The second part of the presentation introduced into the formal validation monitoring as it is done in Germany and presented some figures about how many refugees were asking for validation since 2012, how many refugees received a formal recognition of their competences, and how many of them successfully entered the labour market. The third part of the presentation analysed the validation procedure as it is recommended by the 'Network IQ' (<https://www.netzwerk-iq.de/>), the institution formally responsible for validation in Germany (see also: <https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/de/>). The result was that higher education is not so much in the focus of the validation procedures and that the validation procedures are not very elaborated and/or adapted to the needs of refugees. The fourth step of the presentation was the introduction to the procedures and tools developed in or adapted from the VINCE project.

The second presentation was held by Clara Epping. She described the initial situation of universities in Germany concerning refugees. The universities can decide whether they accept international students without a formal approval to

enter a university or not in their own responsibility. If the papers for admission are not clear they are asking the accreditation-service in Bavaria (Zeugnisanerkennungsstelle) , so that the decision is in line with the decision of the conference of the ministers for educational affairs (Kultusministerkonferenz). The question how competences can be validated, even if there is no formal proof was discussed in 2015 along with the many refugees coming to Germany. As one result of that discussion, the conference of the ministers for educational affairs published guidelines on December, 12th, 2015 (see: https://www.kmk.org/fileadmin/Dateien/veroeffentlichungen_beschluesse/2015/2015_12_03-Hochschulzugang-ohne-Nachweis-der-Hochschulzugangsberechtigung.pdf). In this paper, some procedures are described to make it easier to formally proof one's own competences, but a suggestion to use validation was not made. The Bavarian Ministry of Education stated in January 2016 that, if someone is not able to formally prove his or her qualification, an external examination is generally necessary (Ministerialdirektor Dr. Peter Müller, Aktenzeichen X.4-H2411.4.0-10b/155172). To facilitate this it is possible to visit a special school, the so called Studienkolleg which in Bavaria is located in Munich and Würzburg (see: <http://studienkolleg-muenchen.de/allgemeine-infos>). Since 2018, it is possible to allow acquisition to a university without formal papers from the homeland of a refugee.

A refugee can start to study at the LMU if he/she can make plausible that he/she has the formal qualification to enter a university or is recommended by a Studienkolleg. The LMU does not accept results of a test such as TestAS. The number of refugees without sufficient education / certificates at the LMU is extremely small. Only two or three of the more than 500 refugees visiting the guidance centre had lost their papers. In many cases, the papers are stored at the university of their homeland so that it is possible to 'restore' them.

The discussion of the presentation lasted about one hour. Mrs Berner from the 'Museum five continents' gave many examples from refugees out of her experience. The students reported some initiatives form students and young people to help refugees. The discussion showed that the biggest problem is, to get accepted as a

refugee. As long as a refugee is not accepted, it is hard to support him or her. Since this procedure very frequently is taking a long time from a psychological point of view it is very important to help them getting over this period of uncertainty.

The feedback of the participants was pervasively positive. On the one hand they realized that the LMU is engaged to help refugees to enter the university. On the other hand they understood that central regulations in Bavaria is limiting the possibilities to help them and to guide them. The information offered in the presentation was new to the participants and they found it interesting because now they have a better understanding of the detailed problems of refugees to start studying at the LMU. They also see the possibilities of Validation in general concerning Lifelong Learning.